Air Pouch
PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
773.5-MSP/1-560

# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

227
DESP. NO.

FROM : Amembassy TRIPOLI

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 5, 1960
DATE

REF :

JAN 7 1960

This Document must be Returned to the RMR Central Files

| For Dept. Use Only | ACTION | DEPT. |
|---|---|---|
| | AF-5 | INFO RM/R-2, IRC 8, W/MSC-3, ICA-11 |
| | REC'D 1/13 | OTHER CIA-10, CSD-4, ARMY 4, NAVY-3, AIR-1 |

SUBJECT: MAP Gift of Armored Cars to Libyan Army.

At a ceremony at Azizia Barracks, Tripoli, during the morning of December 23, 1959, ten Saladin armored cars, purchased from the United Kingdom, were presented to the Libyan Army under the United States Military Assistance Program. Representing the American Government was the Ambassador and representing the Libyan Government was the Minister of Defense, Ibrahim ben Shaʻban.

Following military ceremonies, the Ambassador made a short address (Enclosure 1, enclosed) on the role of armed forces in independent countries in preserving those countries' freedom against aggressors.

In response, the Minister of Defense expressed the thanks of his Government, mentioning in particular the Ambassador and Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Colonel Cassieb G. Bassitt. (Enclosure 2).

After inspection of the vehicles and refreshments, the ceremony was concluded.

Also attending were the Chief of Staff of the Libyan Army, General Suassi Lateiriche; the Defense Ministry's Secretary General, Mohamed Musa; the Commissioner of the Federal Police, Brigadier Mohamed a-Zantuti; the Commissioner of the Tripolitania Police, Brigadier Saalim ben Lamiin; the Commander of the British Forces in Tripolitania, Colonel J. O. J. Seaver, and AMAL Libya officers.

Unfortunately, the Libyan press devoted very little space to this gift and no attendant publicity.

For the Ambassador:

James J. Boughton
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures: As listed
cc: Amembassy Rabat

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY g.m. Ray DATE 5/6/82
POST for XD[illegible]. DATE
TO AJEM.

JJBoughton:jt
REPORTER

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record with endorsement of action taken.

AF MESSAGE CENTER
JAN 7 PM 1 51

CAA

773.5-MSP/1-560

R 632

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

ADDRESS BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
TRIPOLI - DECEMBER 23, 1959.

Adequate defense is a basic requirement of every nation.

The ten armored cars standing before us today represent tangible and convincing evidence that the United Kingdom of Libya is developing a well-equipped army equal to the country's defense needs.

In the eight years of Libyan independence your country has made impressive strides in various fields of development. We have all witnessed particular aspects of this progress - - progress in agriculture, in education, and in communications to mention only a few. These developments, which assure Libyans a better future, are to be commended and encouraged.

But sustained development in the economy and social structure of a country is possible only through the maintenance of freedom and independence. Your own leader, His Majesty King Idris, has made this perfectly clear when he said, "The preservation of independence is more difficult than its attainment". These armored cars, and other equipment in the Libyan Army, exist, like the men who operate them, for the preservation of Libyan independence.

The growth and modernization of the Libyan Army in the past few years has been impressive. Under the leadership of your beloved King, the present government and your Chief of Staff, the Libyan Army has developed, in cooperation with friendly nations, into a modern and efficient force. This force is fully dedicated to the preservation of your independence and progress.

I am happy that my government has been able to contribute to the development of your Army and thus to the preservation of your independence and progress.

My Government has designated the U. S. Military Assistance Advisory Group as the organization to cooperate with Libya in the field of defense. These armored cars represent, like the recoilless rifles recently delivered to Libya, the material side of MAAG activities. The other aspect consists of sharing with Libya modern research and training techniques for proper use of newly developed weapons such as these.

This coordinated approach has, I believe, strengthened the combat ability of your army.

However, when speaking of armies and arms, I think it is always well to remind ourselves of their purpose. They are not meant to be used to attack another nation - - but rather to defend the libery and independence of the nation possessing them. The frequently-espoused goal of "peace and friendship" is a part of my government's policy, as I am sure it is your own. But as

UNCLASSIFIED

President Eisenhower has recently emphasized these two conditions are not enough in themselves. To be meaningful they must be combined with "freedom". To assure "Peace and Friendship in Freedom" each of us must be willing and able to defend our own freedom. It is here, it seems to me, that the role of the army comes in. For to be free, we must be vigilant, and the Army, backed by the people, gives a nation the vigilance and strength to remain free.

At this time I have the honor and pleasure to turn over these ten armored cars to the Libyan army. I am told that each of these vehicles with its powerful 76 mm cannon and its two machine guns is the latest armored reconnaissance equipment. It is my hope that these and other weapons which have resulted from Libyan-American cooperation will never have to be used in a war. But their existence, we believe, in combination with other forces of the Free World, will serve as a deterrent to any potential aggressor. It is my earnest hope, and that of my government, that these arms will further assure the independence of the United Kingdom of Libya and thus promote the welfare of each individual Libyan.

May we continue to move forward together toward "Peace and Friendship in Freedom".

- - - - - - - -

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

ADDRESS BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
LIBYAN ARMY, DECEMBER 23, 1959.

Your Excellency the Ambassador, Respected Gentlemen:

I have the pleasure to avail myself of this opportunity, to declare in the name of the Libyan Government, the acceptance and receipt of the Saladin Armored Cars gift, offered to it by the friendly government of the United States of America, for the great effect which this gift will create between us in general and in the Libyan Army circles in particular, since it will increase the tightening of the friendly and amicable relations between our young army, and the great American army.

In this connection, I would like to express our great thanks to the friendly American government for this valuable gift and for the gift of the weapons which we have already received a few months ago. Also I have to mention, with the spirit of gratitude and appreciation, your Excellency's wonderful co-operation with us in this course, hoping that Your Excellency will continue to exploit your praiseworthy efforts, and participate in the strengthening of our young army, by supporting it with the necessary weapons, which enable it to participate with its role in maintaining the international peace and in defending the free world.

Finally, I wish to mention my thanks to Colonel Nassieb George Bassitt, Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, since his tight co-operation and sincere efforts with us have led to the distinguished efforts in the consecutive progress which we seek for our young army, under the auspices of our King H.M. Idris the 1st, the highest leader and the supreme guidance of the army.

- - - - - - - - - -

UNCLASSIFIED